

MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTING INFORMATION

Military personnel and citizens who are living abroad and are registered or eligible to register to vote in California for the General Election on November 7 may apply for an absentee ballot and cast their votes in the election.

Because citizens who live overseas or are in the military have longer mail delivery time, the law permits them to apply for a “special absentee ballot” beginning September 8, instead of having to wait until October 10, as is required of absentee voters applying through the traditional manner. If an overseas citizen is eligible to register but is not yet registered to vote in California, he or she may use a combination registration form and absentee ballot application (Federal Post Card Application) which can be found on the Secretary of State website at www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_mov.htm. Overseas military citizens who are eligible to vote but are not yet registered to vote must submit their registration forms to the elections office by October 23 in order to vote in the General Election.

Under both state and federal law, California resident military personnel and those who are visiting or living abroad may register and vote by mail or fax. Overseas voters with access to the internet can obtain details about their right to vote and can download the appropriate forms by visiting the Secretary of State website listed above.

Voter registration forms and applications for absentee ballots are also available from the Department of Defense’s Federal Voting Assistance Program’s (FVAP) website at www.fvap.gov.

After voting the ballot, it may be returned to the elections official either by mail or by fax. If the voter chooses to return the voted ballot by fax, the voter must include a statement waiving their right to a secret ballot. The specific wording and form are available on the FVAP’s website at <http://www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html>. The elections official must receive ballots, including those voted by overseas and military citizens, no later than the close of polls at 8:00 p.m. on November 7 (Election Day). A postmark is not sufficient to qualify the ballot to be counted.

For more information, please see our website at www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_mov.htm or email us at mov@ss.ca.gov.

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**